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| REPORT FROM MUSLIM ASSOCIATION OF CANTERBURY  (MAC) |

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| CHRISTCHURCH MOSQUE IS A TOURIST ATTRACTION  Being the first Mosque in New Zealand to see the welcome light of a new day, the Christchurch Masjid-un Nur (Mosque of Light), has attracted visitors from all over the Muslim world. There have been groups of visitors from Malaysia and Singapore.  The Muslim Association of Canterbury also welcomed visitors in May, June and July, from the Christchurch community, namely; Marian College, students from Riccarton High School, Riccarton Ladies Probus, **Canterbury & West Coast** Cripple Children Disability, Bishopdale Combined Probus Club, St Thomas of Canterbury College, Christchurch Citizen's Advice Bureau , Christchurch City Mayor Garry Moore and City officials.  On Sunday 29 May 2005, Christchurch Police Officer, Mr. Rakesh Naidoo (Asian Peoples Community Relation Officer), visited our centre. A 40 minute presentation was given on the role of the police and information supplied on the new ethnic New Zealand police website ([www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)). The community also had the opportunity to have their many questions answered. | | FORMATION OF NISA The New Zealand Sisterhood Assembly (NISA) has arranged a conference to take place at Addington School hall on **Friday 22 –Saturday 23 July**.  Yvonne Ridley will be the key note speaker at this conference with the theme ‘Unity and Understanding.’ Sister Yvonne is the British journalist captured in Afghanistan by the Taliban and who subsequently converted to Islam on her return to Britain. In addition, NISA has lined up other interesting activities, such as a concert, lectures, workshop and an art display.  NISA registration Forms are available from the office or download it from MAC Website at [**www.mac.net.nz**](http://www.mac.net.nz) There is a modest registration fee of $10 per person. Refer to the MAC website for more information and registration forms or contact the Women’s Coordinator, Sr. Jane Taylor at [**salihmar@yahoo.com**](mailto:salihmar@yahoo.com).  **Zoo Trip:** The Board of Directors of MAC is organising a day trip to Orana Park for the community's children aged from 4 to 15 years, on Saturday 23 July 2005. This is to help free the sisters to attend NISA’s conference. We need brothers to volunteer their time to help with this trip (One adult per 6 or 8 children). Parents must complete the application form, which is available at MAC and submit it to the management along with the fees. |
| EXPERT ON ISLAMIC EDUCATION, DR ZEID AL - DAKKAN On Friday, 10th June 2005, Dr. Zeid Al-Dakkan visited the centre and gave several lectures on Islam, to the community. Dr. Zeid Al-Dakkan has a PhD in Linguistics from the Sydney University and is currently an Educational Advisor to the Australian Islamic Cultural Centre. | | LECTURES AND MOSQUE ACTIVITIES:  Sheikh Khalid Yasin Visit visited Christchurch from 19th – 24th May 2005. He delivered two lectures in the Masjid addressing community issues, a public lecture at Canterbury University and several media interviews focusing on Women’s rights in Islam. The community benefited from his visit. An open question and answers session was held at the Christchurch Mosque. |
| SUPPORT TO MUSLIMS IN NEW ZEALAND Christian leaders led an unexpected visit on 11th July 2005 to the mosque, to pledge their support to the Muslim community after the 6 mosques in Auckland were vandalised. The delegation consisted of the Anglican Vicar-General Peter Beck, Catholic Bishop John Cunneen and Christchurch intercultural assembly representative, Patrick O'Connor.  At this meeting it was resolved to send letters to the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and the Egyptian ambassador, offering their condolence and support following the London bombings. | | OFFICIALS VISIT FROM THE EMBASSY OF GERMANY Mr. Tilman Enders, Charge' D'affaires from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, visited our Mosque last Monday, 9 May 2005. He was welcomed by Brs. Hasan Toubat, Abdullah Drury and Ahmed Tani, as well as the Association Secretary, Husain Benyounis. |
| MAC HAS A NEW SHURA COUNCIL The Executive Committee of the Muslim Association of Canterbury welcomed the new Shura Council members, namely, Br. Mohammed Asad (Re-elected), Br. Shair Abdi (Re-elected) and Br. Ahmed Tani (Re-elected) and Dr. Mohamed Alayan (New Member). | | APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT WOMEN COORDINATOR The Board of Director of MAC welcomed the appointment of Sister, Dr. Maysoon Salama as the Assistant Women Coordinator and also welcomed her to MAC’s Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. Sister Maysoon is well known and respected in the community for her contribution towards the day-to-day running of the only Muslim Child Care Centre in New Zealand. |
| LECTURE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC  A public Lecture by Sr. Yvonne Ridley has been arranged for Tuesday, 26th July in the Great Hall at the Arts Centre, commencing at 7.00pm. Sister Yvonne will deliver a public lecture entitled *In the Hands of the Taliban*. This is Sister Yvonne’s only public lecture here in Christchurch so don’t miss out. Bring all your non-Muslim family and friends and colleagues. Tickets are available from the Information Centre at the Arts Centre at $7 a ticket - $5 for seniors and students. | **SECOND NATIONAL ISLAMIC CONVERTS CONFERENCE (2ND NICC)**  MAC has organised the Second NICC at Zayed Girls College in Auckland. The dates have been fixed as Friday to Sunday, 29 – 31 July 2005. If you would like to join the conference please contact the management or Br. Mohammed Shameem, the NICC coordinator, from Auckland. The Main Speaker is Dr. ABU AMEENAH BILAL PHILIPS.  The ‘Third Islamic Art Exhibition’ by the Aotearoa Islamic Impressions will be held in the atrium concurrently with the NICC conference. "Mosques...Houses of Allah" is the theme of our exhibition according to the organiser, Br. Ahmed Esau. MAC has sponsored this Islamic Art exhibition. | |

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| MOSQUE OPEN DAY ON ISLAM AWARENESS WEEK The Mosque Open Day will take place on Sunday, 14th August 2005 from 11:00am until 4:00pm to coincide with the Islam Awareness week organised by the Muslim Student Association in New Zealand. The theme for this year awareness week is "Getting to Know Each other". The Muslim students of Canterbury will be organizing and supervising their activities. The Otago Muslim Association in Dunedin has invited Br. Abdur Raheem Green, a well known British scholar, to tour their centre and he will be in Christchurch on Friday 12 August 2005. |
| CONTACT **Muslim Association of Canterbury**  **Email: info@mac.net.nz**  **Website:** [**www.mac.net.nz**](http://www.mac.net.nz) |